

**2008 Report on Act 150 of 2000,
An Act Relating to
Public School Choice in Grades 9-12**

Report to the House and Senate Committees on Education

January 15, 2008



(802) 828-3135

2008 Annual Report on Act 150 of 2000, Public School Choice in Grades 9-12

I. Introduction

This is the seventh annual report required by Act 150. It provides information on how schools have implemented the law and the extent to which students have participated, focusing chiefly on the current school year. In January 2005, the department provided qualitative findings from a study done by UVM researchers and offered additional findings and recommendations as directed by the legislation in Sec. 3(b)(1)(A)-(E). Through Sec. 21 of H.867, of the 2006 session, the Legislature repealed Sec. 4 of Act 150, the July 2007 sunset provision; therefore, until the Legislature takes further action, Act 150 remains in force.

This report also includes Appendix A, Act 150 Tables and Bar Graph; Appendix B, Choice Data by School; and Appendix C, School Choice Regions for School Year 2007-2008.

For reference, this report and those from 2003 through 2007 are provided on the department's Act 150 Web page at <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/laws/act150.html>.

II. Implementation of School Choice, 2006-2007

School Choice Participants

“Other” and “Unknown” appear in this report as a result of data from schools that could not be verified.

Two hundred fifty-five (255) students applied to enroll in other schools this year, which is .9 percent of students in grades 9-12. While only one more student applied for the first time this year compared with last, the number enrolling increased by 29 percent, 138 this year compared with 107 last year. Overall participation (that is, including new students and those who had previously enrolled, and who were still in other high schools) increased by 20 percent this year, from 315 to 379, the highest number ever. (In School Year 2002-2003, the year the law took effect, 161 students participated.) The total represents 1.3 percent of students in grades 9-12.

Five schools with 47 enrollees account for approximately one-third of all students who enrolled in schools this year for the first time: South Burlington, 18; Burlington, 10; Spaulding, 7; and Leland & Grey and Oxbow, with 6 each.

Five schools with 49 transfers account for approximately one-third of those who transferred from schools this year for the first time: Burlington, 13; Bellows Falls, 10; CVU, 11; Mt. Abraham, 8; and Spaulding, 7.

Gender distribution, and participation by students receiving free and reduced price lunch, and by special education students, were consistent with these groups' proportional representation in the high school population.

Schools with technical centers or with access to them were chosen by students exercising choice at relatively higher rates than schools without such access. Given the low number of small schools and students exercising choice from them, no generalizations can be made about these data.

This year, there were no new students transferring from 19 schools, compared with 21 last year; there were no new students enrolling in 19 schools, compared with 22 last year; and there were no students

transferring or enrolling at 11 schools, compared with eight last year. These figures tend to show growing participation in high school choice.

There was no measurable disparate impact in enrollment and transfer lotteries (when more students apply than are places available) on male or female students, nor on students receiving free or reduced price lunch, nor on special education students.

A very small number of schools either provided transportation for students exercising choice or were asked to do so.

Composition of School Choice Regions

As shown in Appendix C, compared with last year, there have been relatively few changes in the composition of school choice regions. This year, 61 schools took part in choice. There are three relatively large groups: 18 in Winooski Valley (Central Vermont); 11 in the Southeast; and seven in Rutland County.

III. Conclusion

While the quantitative data in this report will inform deliberations about school choice to some degree, the small number of participants, both of those who applied and transferred and of those who applied but did not transfer, makes it impossible to draw specific or broad conclusions. The attached tables are intended to respond to the questions that precede them which have been drawn from the text of Act 150.

Attachments

Appendix A: Act 150 Tables & Bar Graph

Appendix B: Choice Data by School

Appendix C: School Choice Regions for School Year 2006-2007

Appendix A: Act 150 Tables & Bar Graph

The Data

	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08
Number of High Schools	61	61	61	61	61	61
Number of High Schools Reporting	61	61	60	61	61	61

How many 9-12th grade pupils exercised choice and how many pupils wished to exercise choice but were unable to do so?

	FY03	FY04*	FY05*	FY06*	FY07*	FY08*
Number requesting enrollment	221	188	151	128	256	255
Number enrolled	161	121	76	52	107	138
Number accepted but not enrolled	36	24	38	27	34	38
Number declined enrollment	18	33	36	27	101	58
Other	6	10	1	22	14	21
Number requesting transfer	226	142	174	155	223	228
Number with confirmed transfer	161	121	90	52	107	138
Number accepted but not transferred	22	13	31	57	33	30
Number declined transfer	33	25	23	26	64	42
Other	10	8	30	20	19	18

*Students reported in prior years are not included in these totals.

How many Act 150 students are enrolled in Vermont public schools today?

FY03	FY04		FY05		FY06		FY07		FY08	
Act 150 Students	New Act 150 Students	Cumulative Total								
161	120	223	76	223	52	254	107	315	138	379

In applying to enroll in other schools for the 2007-2008 school year, what are the results by gender, students receiving special education or not, and by students receiving free or reduced price lunch or not?

	Total number of 9-12th grade students in Vermont Public High Schools		Total number of 9-12th grade students requesting enrollment by choice		Total number of 9-12th grade students enrolled by choice		Total number of 9-12th grade students declined enrollment by choice	
Total	28,322		255	0.9%	138	54.1%	58	22.7%
Gender								
Female	13,798	48.7%	134	52.5%	73	52.9%	34	58.6%
Male	14,524	51.3%	121	47.5%	65	47.1%	24	41.4%
Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Special Ed								
With IEP	3,850	13.6%	28	11.0%	16	11.6%	8	13.8%
Without IEP	24,472	86.4%	227	89.0%	122	88.4%	50	86.2%
Poverty								
F/R Lunch	6,425	22.7%	64	25.1%	39	28.3%	12	20.7%
No F/R Lunch	21,897	77.3%	174	68.2%	91	65.9%	43	74.1%
Unknown	0	0.0%	17	6.7%	8	5.8%	3	5.2%
Grade Level								
9	7,109	25.1%	72	28.2%	27	19.6%	22	37.9%
10	7,235	25.5%	47	18.4%	28	20.3%	12	20.7%
11	6,975	24.6%	54	21.2%	32	23.2%	12	20.7%
12	7,003	24.7%	33	12.9%	24	17.4%	5	8.6%
8/Unknown	0	0.0%	49	19.2%	27	19.6%	7	12.1%

In applying to transfer from their schools for the 2007-2008 school year, what are the results by gender, students receiving special education or not, and by students receiving free or reduced price lunch or not?

	Total number of 9-12th grade students in Vermont Public High Schools	Total number of 9-12th grade students requesting transfer by choice	Total number of 9-12th grade students with confirmed transfer by choice	Total number of 9-12th grade students declined transfer by choice
Total	28,322	228	0.8%	138
Gender				
Female	13,798	48.7%	120	52.6%
Male	14,524	51.3%	108	47.4%
Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Special Ed				
With IEP	3,850	13.6%	26	11.4%
Without IEP	24,472	86.4%	202	88.6%
Poverty				
F/R Lunch	6,425	22.7%	63	27.6%
No F/R Lunch	21,897	77.3%	152	66.7%
Unknown	0	0.0%	13	5.7%
Grade Level				
9	7,109	25.1%	60	26.3%
10	7,235	25.5%	50	21.9%
11	6,975	24.6%	48	21.1%
12	7,003	24.7%	30	13.2%
7/8/SU/Unknown	0	0.0%	40	17.5%

What is the effect of the system on access to technical centers and transition to work programs?

The current study provided no information indicating whether choice affected access to transition to work programs. However, we were able to look at the effect of choice on access to technical centers. Each school was labeled as including a local technical center, or not, and the number of students enrolling in or transferring to each categories is listed below. For the third year in a row the data indicate that students are leaving schools without a local technical center more often than one with a technical center. Similarly, more students are entering schools with a local technical center than those without.

	N	Enrolling	Transferring	Number of Schools with Net Loss	Percentage of Schools with Net Loss
Schools with Local Technical Centers	15	46	41	6	40%
Schools without Local Technical Centers	46	92	97	17	37%

How has the system affected small schools?

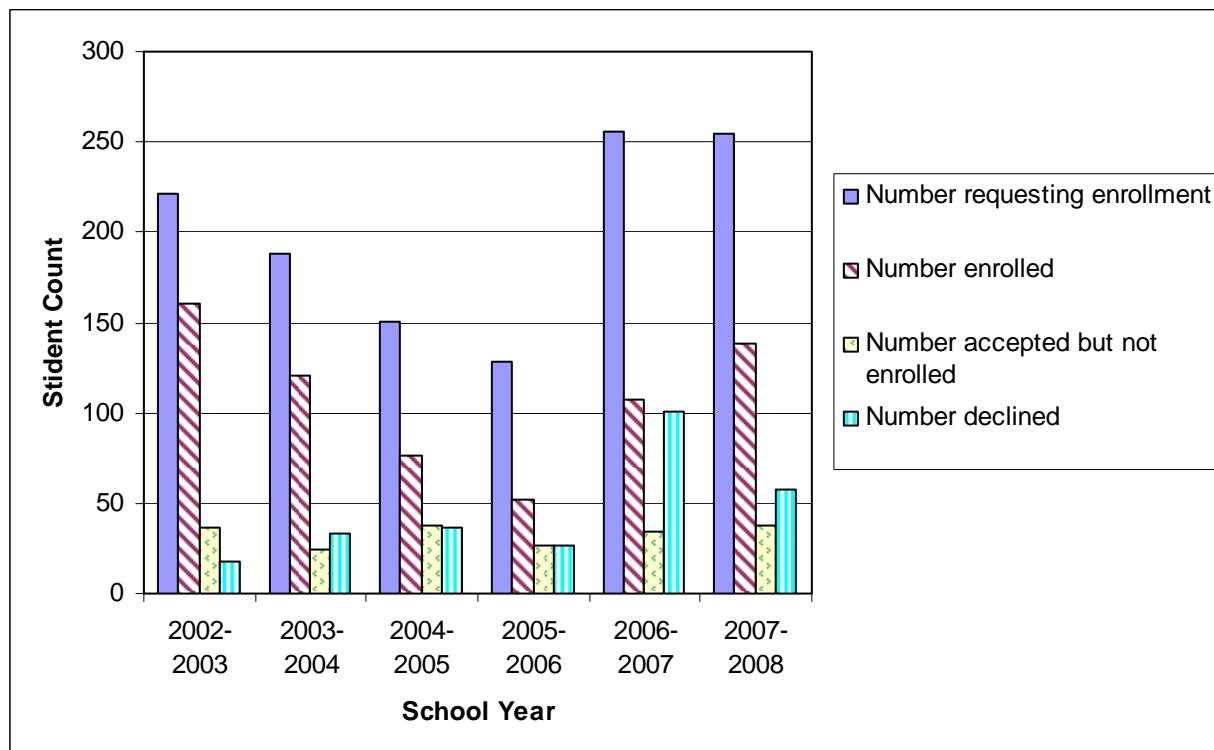
To address this issue, schools were labeled as small if they had 25 or fewer graduates. This method has been used previously in the decision not to report graduation rates for small high schools.

	N	Enrolling	Transferring	Number of Schools with Net Loss	Percentage of Schools with Net Loss
Schools with fewer than 25 or fewer graduates	5	1	5	2	40%
Schools with more than 25 graduates	56	137	133	21	38%

Transportation Questions

	Yes	No	No Answer	Unknown
Does your school provide transportation assistance for enrolled Act 150 students?	2	59	0	0
Does your school provide transportation assistance for transferring Act 150 students?	1	60	0	0
Has your school been asked to provide transportation assistance for enrolled Act 150 students?	2	49	0	10
Has your school been asked to provide transportation assistance for transferring Act 150 students?	1	49	0	11

Students Requesting to Enroll by Act 150



Appendix B: Choice Data by School

School ID	School Name	Transfer Capacity FY08	Enrollment Capacity FY08	Students Transferred By Act 150 FY03	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY04	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY05	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY06	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY07	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY08	Students Enrolled By Act 150 FY03	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY04	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY05	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY06	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY07	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY08	Small High School	Local Technical Center
	Statewide Totals	470	547	160	118	76	52	107	138	161	120	76	52	107	138	5	15
PI004	RIVENDELL ACADEMY	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	No	No
PS011	ARLINGTON MEMORIAL	4	4	0	1	0	0	2	2	3	4	4	4	3	1	No	No
PS025	BELLOWS FALLS UHSD #27	10	10	10	2	0	0	7	10	1	0	0	1	3	0	No	No
PS035	BLACK RIVER USD #39	7	10	5	3	1	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	No	No
PS036	BLUE MOUNTAIN USD #21	10	10	1	2	0	2	4	6	1	1	0	3	0	1	No	No
PS040	BRATTLEBORO UHSD #6	4	4	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	3	4	0	3	4	No	Yes
PS052	BURLINGTON SENIOR HIGH SC	23	23	3	5	4	1	8	13	3	8	8	2	6	10	No	Yes
PS055	CABOT SCHOOL	-	6	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	Yes	No
PS059	CANAAN SCHOOLS	15	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Yes	No
PS066	CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UHSD #15	11	5	0	8	7	11	6	11	0	1	0	1	1	4	No	No
PS069	CHELSEA ELEM. HIGH SCHOOL	5	4	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	No	No
PS072	COLCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL	10	10	1	0	0	0	1	5	2	0	0	0	0	3	No	No
PS074	CONCORD SCHOOL	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Yes	No
PS078	CRAFTSBURY SCHOOLS	3	3	1	0	0	0	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	Yes	No
PS082	DANVILLE SCHOOL	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	No	No
PS098	ENOSBURG FALLS JR/SR HIGH	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	No	Yes
PS104	FAIR HAVEN UHSD #16	10	10	7	1	0	2	4	3	7	3	0	1	0	2	No	No
PS124	GREEN MOUNTAIN UHSD #35	16	16	2	1	0	0	3	1	16	6	2	0	3	5	No	No
PS134	HARTFORD HIGH SCHOOL	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	No	Yes
PS138	HARWOOD UHSD #19	10	10	3	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	No	No
PS139	HAZEN UHSD #26	10	10	1	2	1	3	2	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	No	No
PS157	LAKE REGION UHSD #24	15	15	6	5	5	2	2	2	4	6	7	0	8	4	No	No
PS158	LAMOILLE UHSD #18	0	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	3	1	2	No	Yes
PS161	LELAND AND GRAY UHSD #34	10	10	0	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	1	0	3	6	No	No
PS180	MIDDLEBURY SR. UHSD #3	10	10	0	1	0	1	0	3	6	6	2	0	5	5	No	Yes
PS183	MILL RIVER USD #40	10	2	4	1	2	1	2	1	20	2	1	0	2	2	No	No
PS186	MILTON SR HIGH SCHOOL	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	No	No
PS187	MISSISQUOI VALLEY UHSD #7	4	4	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	No	No
PS191	MONTPELIER HIGH SCHOOL	10	10	6	9	0	1	4	2	15	4	0	3	2	3	No	No
PS195	MOUNT ABRAHAM UHSD #28	10	10	5	3	2	0	3	8	0	1	0	0	0	1	No	No
PS196	MT. ANTHONY SR. UHSD #14	-	10	3	3	0	0	3	2	0	3	1	0	2	2	No	Yes
PS199	MT. MANSFIELD USD #17	10	10	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	No	No
PS208	NORTH COUNTRY SR UHSD #2	16	16	2	4	7	0	8	4	6	7	7	2	2	2	No	Yes
PS211	NORTHFIELD MIDDLE/HIGH SC	6	6	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	No	No

Vermont Department of Education

School ID	School Name	Transfer Capacity FY08	Enrollment Capacity FY08	Students Transferred By Act 150 FY03	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY04	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY05	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY06	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY07	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY08	Students Enrolled By Act 150 FY03	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY04	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY05	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY06	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY07	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY08	Small High School	Local Technical Center
	Statewide Totals	470	547	160	118	76	52	107	138	161	120	76	52	107	138	5	15
PS219	OTTER VALLEY UHSD #8	10	10	10	4	4	0	0	2	3	3	0	1	1	1	No	No
PS220	OXBOW UHSD #30	2	7	1	1	0	3	0	1	1	2	0	2	4	6	No	Yes
PS224	PEOPLES ACADEMY	6	6	2	1	1	1	1	2	4	3	0	0	3	4	No	No
PS230	POULTNEY HIGH SCHOOL	2	2	5	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	No	No
PS233	PROCTOR JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL	5	5	2	2	0	1	0	0	5	1	4	1	3	5	No	No
PS237	RANDOLPH UHSD #2	2	8	1	0	0	0	3	2	4	1	1	0	3	1	No	Yes
PS242	RICHFORD JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	No	No
PS247	ROCHESTER SCHOOL	5	5	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	No	No
PS253	RUTLAND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	-	2	2	2	2	0	3	3	13	4	5	3	2	0	No	Yes
PS272	SO. BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL	25	25	1	0	0	2	3	6	1	14	11	12	12	18	No	No
PS274	SO. ROYALTON ELEM/HIGH SCHOOL	8	8	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	No	No
PS276	SPAULDING HSUD #41	30	10	7	3	3	1	1	7	5	4	4	1	3	7	No	Yes
PS278	SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL	10	10	1	0	0	0	1	3	2	3	1	1	4	2	No	Yes
PS287	STOWE MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL	6	6	2	1	0	0	0	1	5	3	2	2	0	2	No	No
PS304	TWINFIELD USD #33	-	5	1	0	0	0	1	3	1	4	2	5	0	1	No	No
PS305	U32 HIGH SCHOOL (UHSD #32)	10	10	12	4	0	2	0	0	6	9	2	1	5	6	No	No
PS312	VERGENNES UHSD #5	10	10	2	2	0	0	3	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	No	No
PS331	WEST RUTLAND SCHOOL	10	10	5	3	0	0	1	1	2	2	1	0	2	1	No	No
PS338	WHITCOMB JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL	5	5	1	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	Yes	No
PS344	WILLIAMSTOWN MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL	10	10	2	0	0	0	2	2	3	2	0	0	0	2	No	No
PS346	TWIN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL	10	50	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	No	No
PS348	WINDSOR HIGH SCHOOL	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	No	No
PS351	WINOOSKI HIGH SCHOOL	8	8	2	4	6	0	4	1	2	2	0	0	0	2	No	No
PS356	WOODSTOCK SR. UHSD #4	-	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	No	No
PS388	ESSEX COMM. ED. CTR. UHSD	3	10	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	No	Yes
PS405	BELLOWS FREE ACADEMY (FA)	-	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	No	Yes
PS406	BELLOWS FREE ACADEMY (ST)	4	4					3	0					2	3	No	No
	UNKNOWN			31	31	25	14										

* UNKNOWN represents students who enrolled in a school Act 150 but the transferring school is not known. The majority of these students are 8th graders during the Act 150 lotteries.

Appendix C: Public High Schools – Composition of School Choice Regions Under Act 150
School Year 2007-2008 – Vermont Department of Education – September 2007

Notes: Schools in Addison County (three schools), Rutland County (seven schools), the Southeast Region (11 schools), and Winooski Valley (18 schools), are included individually on the list and are listed in groups at the end. Membership in these four regions has not changed during the last year. Apart from the larger groups, most schools are in regions with one or two other schools. When more than one “X” appears in the “Agreement” column, the school is a member of more than one region.

School	Partners	Agreement (X = on file)
Arlington Memorial	Mt. Anthony	X
BFA-Fairfax	Missisquoi Valley	X
BFA-St. Albans	Missisquoi Valley; Milton	X; X
Bellows Falls High School	Southeast Region	X
Black River High School	Southeast Region	X
Blue Mountain Union	Oxbow Union	X
Brattleboro High School	Southeast Region	X
Burlington High School	CVU and So. Burlington; Colchester	X; X
Cabot School	Winooski Valley	X
Canaan Memorial High School	Lake Region and North Country	X
Champlain Valley Union	Burlington and So. Burlington; Winooski	X; X
Chelsea High School	Winooski Valley	X
Colchester High School	Mt. Mansfield; Essex High School; Burlington	X; X; X
Concord High School	Danville School	X
Craftsbury Academy	Winooski Valley	X
Danville School	Concord High School	X
Enosburg Falls High School	Richford High School	X
Essex High School	South Burlington; Colchester High School	X; X
Fair Haven High School	Rutland County	X
Green Mountain Union	Southeast Region	X
Hartford High School	Southeast Region	X
Harwood Union	Winooski Valley	X
Hazen Union	Winooski Valley	X
Lake Region Union	Canaan and North Country	X
Lamoille Union	Winooski Valley	X
Leland & Gray High School	Southeast Region	X
Middlebury High School	Mt. Abraham and Vergennes	X

School	Partners	Agreement (X = on file)
Mill River Union	Rutland County	X
Milton High School	BFA-St. Albans; Missisquoi Valley; Winooski	X; X; X
Missisquoi Valley Union	BFA-Fairfax; BFA-St. Albans; Milton	X; X; X
Montpelier High School	Winooski Valley	X
Mt. Abraham Union	Middlebury and Vergennes	X
Mt. Anthony Union	Arlington; Twin Valley High School	X; X
Mt. Mansfield Union	Colchester High School	X
North Country Union	Canaan and Lake Region	X; X
Northfield High School	Winooski Valley	X
Otter Valley Union	Rutland County	X
Oxbow Union	Blue Mountain	X
Peoples Academy	Winooski Valley	X
Poultney High School	Rutland County	X
Proctor High School	Rutland County	X
Randolph Union	Winooski Valley	X
Richford High School	Enosburg Falls High School	X
Rivendell High School	Southeast Region	X
Rochester School	Winooski Valley	X
Rutland Senior High School	Rutland County	X
So. Burlington High School	Burlington and CVU; Essex	X; X
So. Royalton High School	Winooski Valley	X
Spaulding High School	Winooski Valley	X
Springfield High School	Southeast Region	X
Stowe High School	Winooski Valley	X
Twinfield Union High School	Winooski Valley	X
Twin Valley High School	Southeast Region; Mt. Anthony	X; X
U-32 High School	Winooski Valley	X
Vergennes Union	Middlebury and Mt. Abraham	X
West Rutland School	Rutland County	X
Whitcomb High School	Winooski Valley	X
Williamstown High School	Winooski Valley	X
Windsor High School	Southeast Region	X
Winooski High School	Champlain Valley Union; Milton	X; X
Woodstock Union	Southeast Region	X

Addison County Regional Public High School Choice Partnership – 3
Middlebury, Mt. Abraham, and Vergennes

Winooski Valley Region Public School Choice Collaborative – 18

Cabot	Montpelier	Spaulding
Chelsea	Northfield	Stowe
Craftsbury	Peoples Academy	Twinfield
Harwood	Randolph	U-32
Hazen	Rochester	Whitcomb
Lamoille Union	South Royalton	Williamstown

Southeast Region – 11

Bellows Falls	Hartford	Twin Valley
Black River	Leland & Gray	Windsor
Brattleboro	Rivendell	Woodstock
Green Mountain	Springfield	

Rutland County School Choice Collaborative – 7

Fair Haven
Mill River
Otter Valley
Poultney High School
Proctor High School
Rutland City High School
West Rutland School